

The Changing Face of Renton

The Human Services Division of the City of Renton is currently reviewing 2000 Census data. The following information highlights some of the 2000 Renton data, and where appropriate, a comparison to 1990 data to highlight significant changes.

Population

In 2000, Renton's population was 50,052, an increase of 8,364 in the last ten years.¹ The population is still comprised of 50.3% females and 49.7% males. The population in King County grew 15.2% from 1990-2000, while Renton's growth was 20.1%, with just 1.5% of that growth attributed to annexation.

Due to the increase in the total population between 1990 and 2000, the number of Renton residents by age shows an increase in the number of persons in all age groups. However, when each age group is viewed as a percentage of the Renton population as a whole as shown in the Age Comparison by Percentages graph, noticeable population shifts occurred in only two categories. The 19-44 age category decreased almost 3% from 1990 and the 46-64 age group increased 3.6%. There were minor shifts in the 0-4, and 65+ age groups.

Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality

Renton has become increasingly diverse in the past ten years, as has the rest of South King County. In 1990, 83.5% of the population reported themselves as White, but only 68.1% now identify as White. The Asian/Pacific Islander population doubled, from 7.7% in 1990 to 15.9% in 2000, and those identifying themselves as having Hispanic or Latino ethnicity more than doubled, from 3% to 7.6% of the population. A person can identify as Hispanic/Latino and be of any race.

The graph showing the actual Population by Race is very similar to the percentage changes in population by race. The only difference between the actual population figures and the percentage figures is the persons reporting themselves as White. The actual number has increased due to the increased population, but the percentage of persons identifying themselves as White in 2000 decreased from 1990. Race and Ethnicity Information by Age from the 2000 Census has also been provided.

Reflective of the increasing diversity, there was a 168% increase from 1990 of people speaking languages other than English in the home. The population (over age 5) reporting speaking English "less than very well" increased from 3.7% in 1990 to 12% in 2000.

¹ The 2003 population in Renton is 54,900.

Forty-nine languages were represented in the Renton School District's English as a Second Language (ESL) program during the 2001-2002 school year. Other than English, the top languages spoken by students were Spanish (529), Vietnamese (127), Russian (123), Ukrainian (110), Somali (91), Chinese-Canton (45), Tagalog (37), Rumanian (28), Lao (21) and Korean (21).

Renton's foreign-born population increased over 11% since 1990, from 7.8% in 1990 to 19.2% in 2000. The percentage of foreign-born arriving in the United States between 1980 and 1990 comprised 3.1% of the total population, while the number entering between 1990 to 2000 was 10.1% of the population. From 1990 to 2000, 20% of Renton's foreign-born residents came from Europe, 48% from Asia, and 20% from Latin America.

Housing

The number of people owning their own homes has increased slightly. In 1990, 48.5% of households lived in owner-occupied units; 51.5% in rental units. By 2000, that number had changed to 50% owner-occupied households and 50% renter-occupied units.

The average household and family sizes in Renton showed very little change. The average household size in 2000 was 2.29 compared to 2.27 in 1990, and the average family size was 2.98 in 2000 and 2.92 in 1990. These are comparable to King County with a 2.39 average household size and a 3.03 average family size. A household includes all persons occupying a housing unit and may consist of a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any group of related or unrelated persons sharing living arrangements. Families consist of a householder and one or more other related persons living in the same household.

Household composition changed minimally from 1990 to 2000. In 2000, 34% of Renton residents live in one-person households. Nineteen percent of married couples had children under 18 residing with them and 24% of married couples did not.

Education

The percentage of Renton residents 25 years of age or older with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 21.8% in 1990 to 27.8% in 2000. While less than the percentages for King County (40%), Renton's proportion of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher is greater than many other South King County cities, such as Kent (24%), Burien (21.2%), Federal Way (19%), and Tukwila (17.5%).

Poverty Status

The percentage of Renton families and individuals with 1999 incomes below the poverty threshold increased 43% over 1989 and 66% over 1989 for individuals below the poverty threshold.

Seven percent of Renton's families (853) were below the poverty threshold in 2000, as were 9.7% of individuals (4798). By comparison, in King County 5.3% families and 8.4% of individuals fell below the poverty threshold.

Poverty thresholds are used by the Census Bureau to determine who is poor. If a family's total income is less than the Bureau's threshold for that family size and composition, the family and every individual in the household is considered poor.

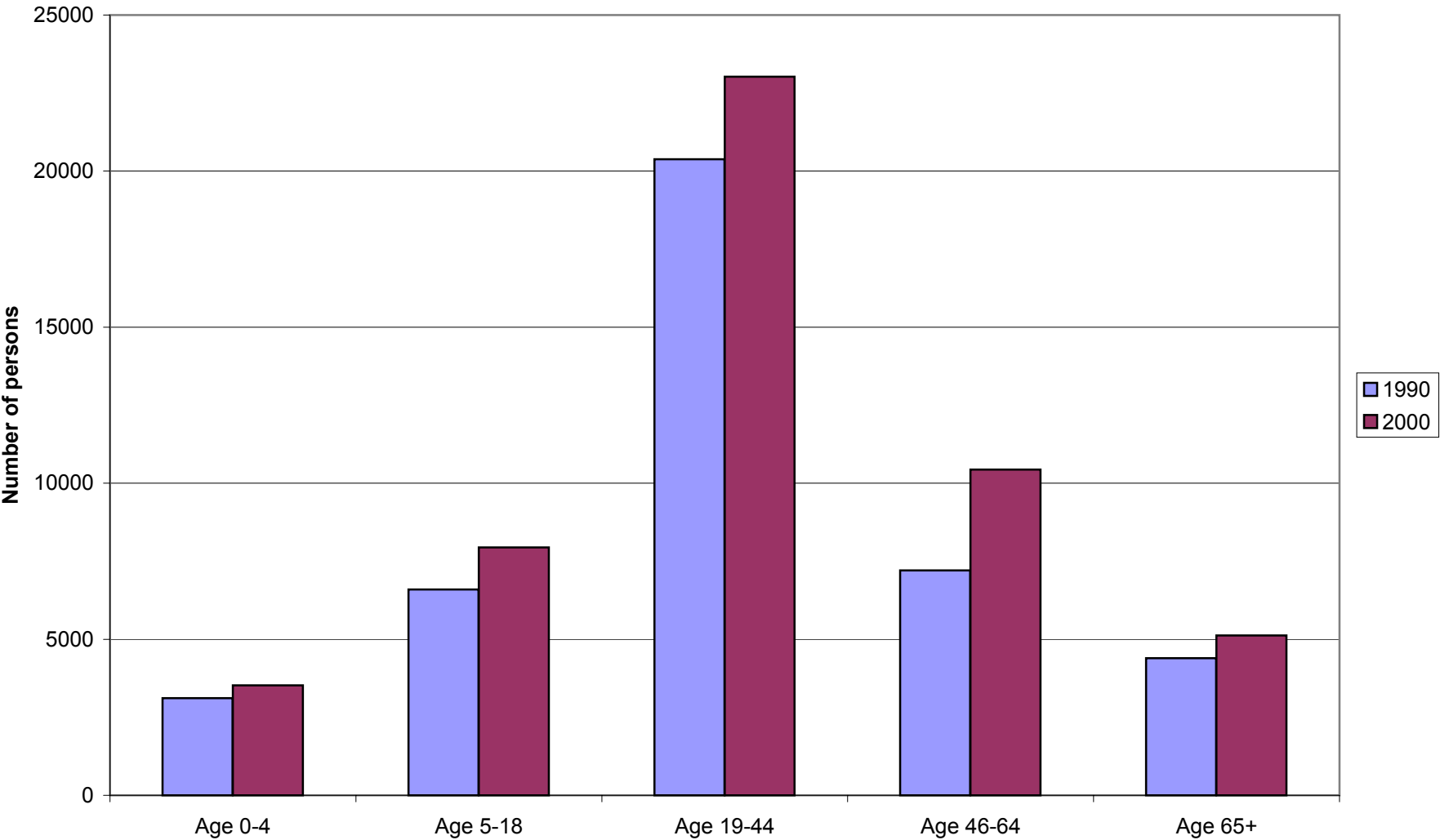
These thresholds, although similar, are not the same poverty guidelines used in determining eligibility for certain federal programs such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Food Stamps, and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) to name a few.

The Bureau's poverty thresholds differ by number of persons, ages of persons (over or under 65), and number of related children, which resulted in 48 separate income thresholds. In response to requests from data users for a simplified summary of the income thresholds, the Census Bureau provides weighted average thresholds to provide a general sense of the "poverty line". The table below shows the average thresholds for 2001:

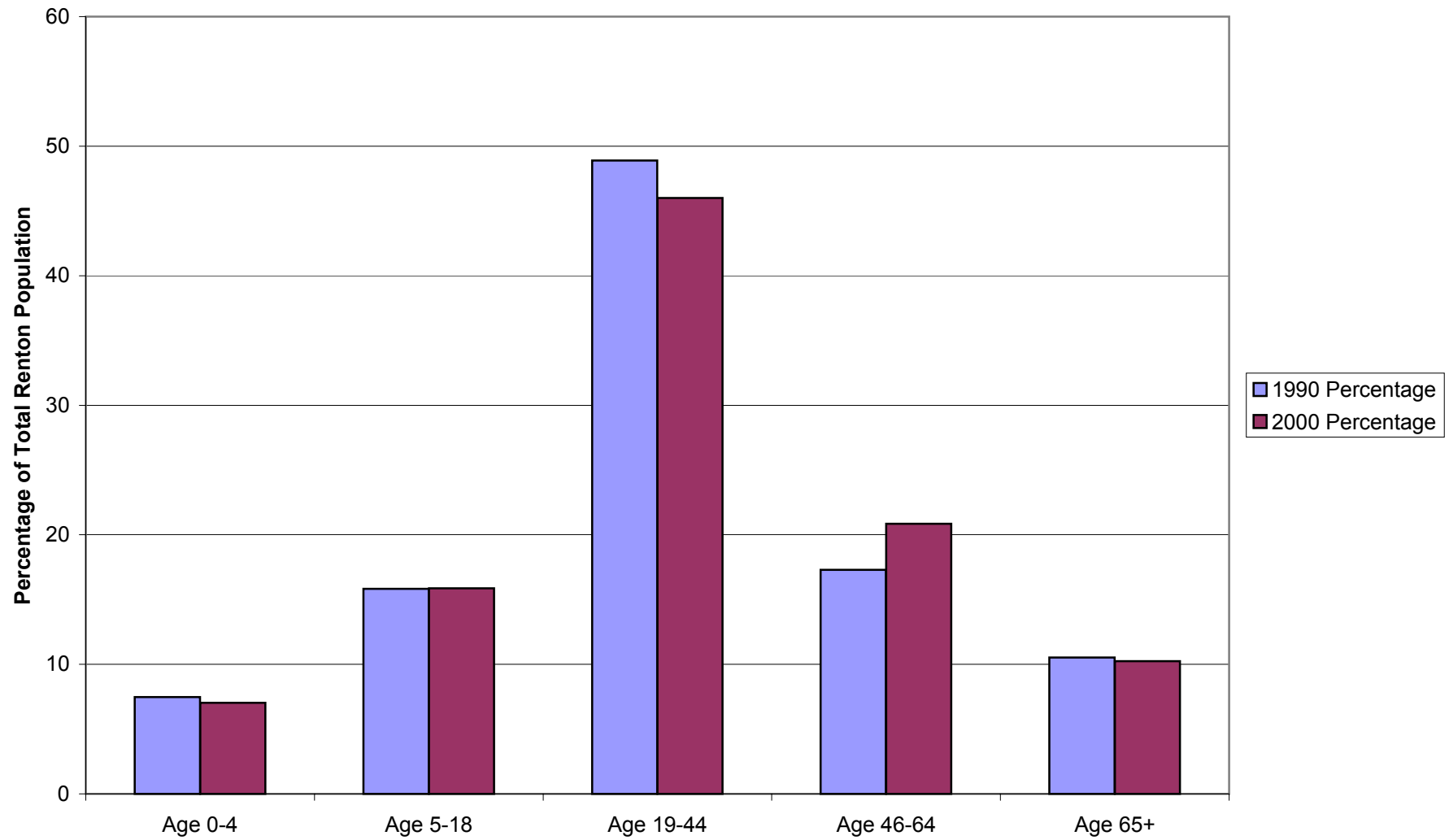
Family Size	(Families with annual incomes below this amount are considered poor).
One Person	\$ 9,039
Two Persons	\$11,569
Three Persons	\$14,128
Four Persons	\$18,104
Five Persons	\$21,405
Six Persons	\$24,195
Seven Persons	\$27,517
Eight Persons	\$30,627
Nine or more Persons	\$36,286

Check the City of Renton Census website at www.ci.renton.wa.us as additional information from the 2000 Census is added. General Demographic Characteristics and Selected Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics for Renton have also been provided here. The census analysis will be included in Linkages, Renton's Human Services Needs Assessment, to be updated in 2003 and 2004. If you have questions about the material presented, please contact Dianne Utecht at 425-430-6655 or dutecht@ci.renton.wa.us.

**Renton Population by Age
1990 & 2000 Census**



**Age Comparison by Percentages
1990 & 2000 Census Data**



RENTON Comparison of Population by Racial and Ethnic Characteristics 1990-2000						
Characteristics	1990		2000		Change 1990-2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
RACE						
Total Population	41,688	100	50,052	100	8,364	20.1
One Race						
White	34,790	83.4	34,105	68.1	-685	-2.0
Black /African American	2,731	5.8	4,238	8.5	1,507	55.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,227	6.9	6,942	13.9	3,715	115.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	491	1.2	358	0.7	-133	-27.1
Some other race ¹	449	1.0	2,122	4.2	1,673	372.6
Two or More races ²	N/A	N/A	2,287	4.6	N/A	N/A
ETHNICITY						
Total Population	41,688	100	50,052	100	8,364	20.1
Hispanic or Latino ³	1,234	3.0	3,818	7.6	2,584	209.4

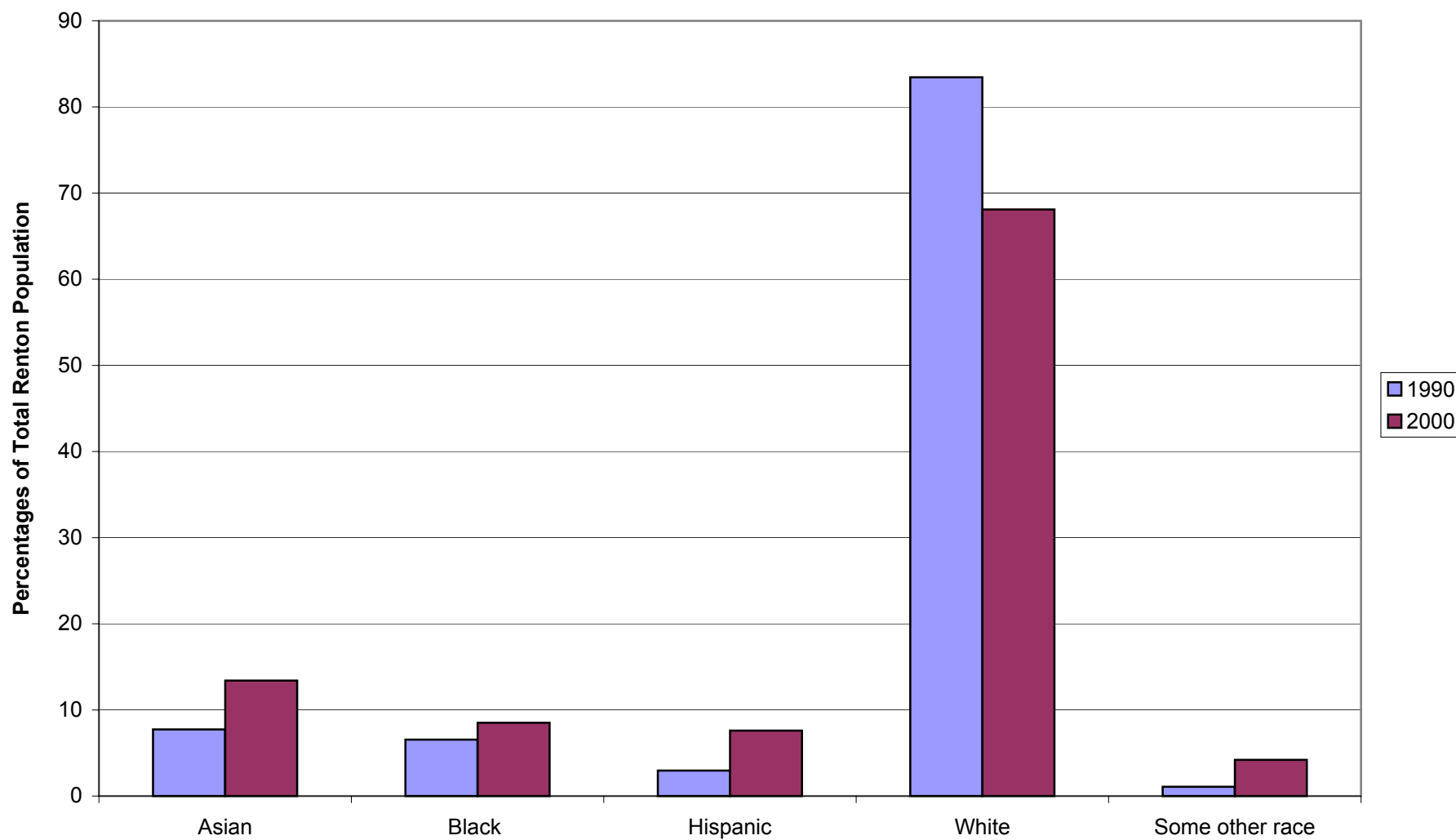
¹ "Some other race" includes all responses not included in the White, Black/African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander race categories described above. Respondents providing write-in entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic/Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban) in the "Some other race" category are included here.

² This option was added for the 2000 Census

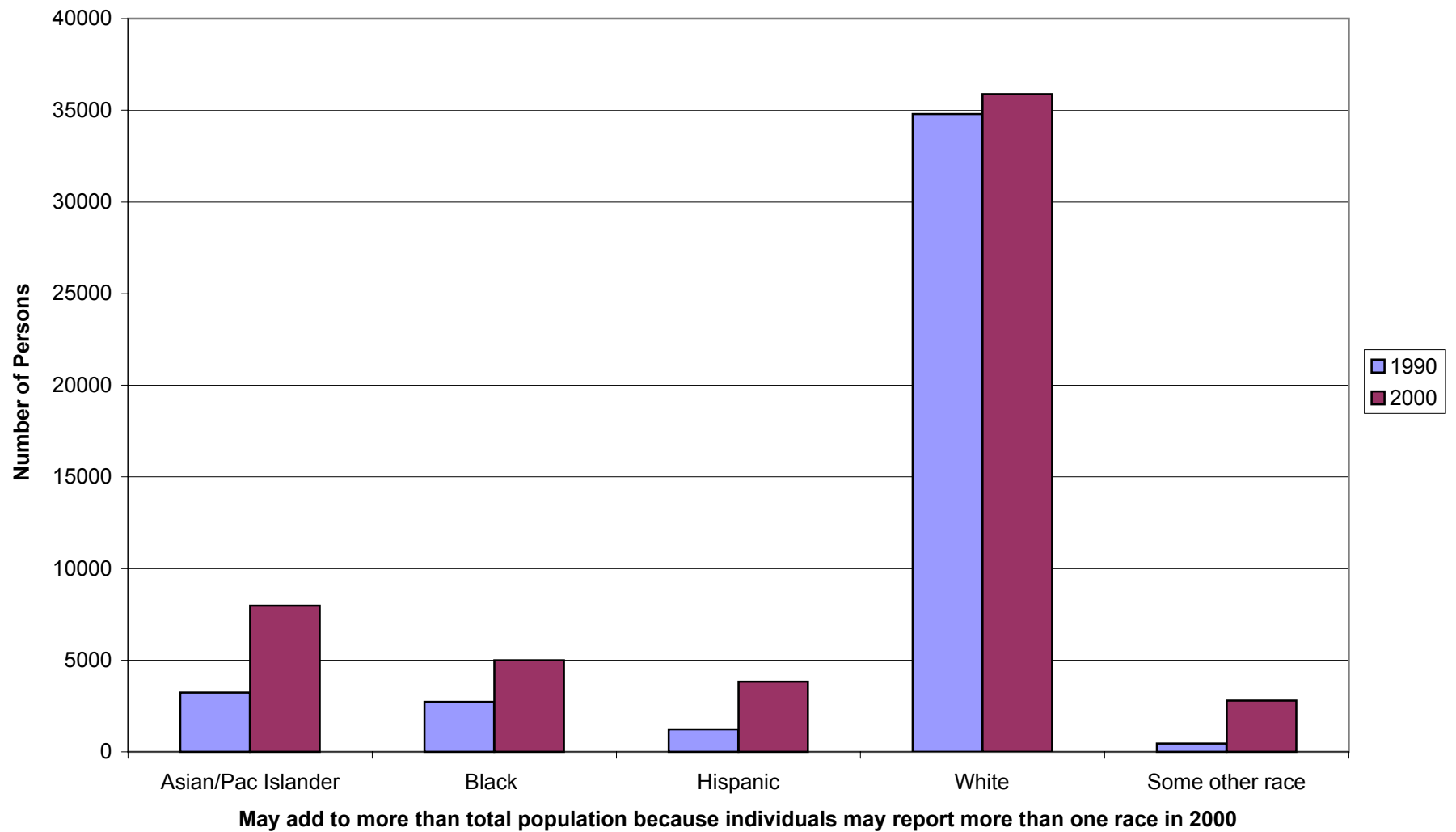
³ Any race

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census

**Percentage Changes In Population By Race
1900 & 2000 Census**

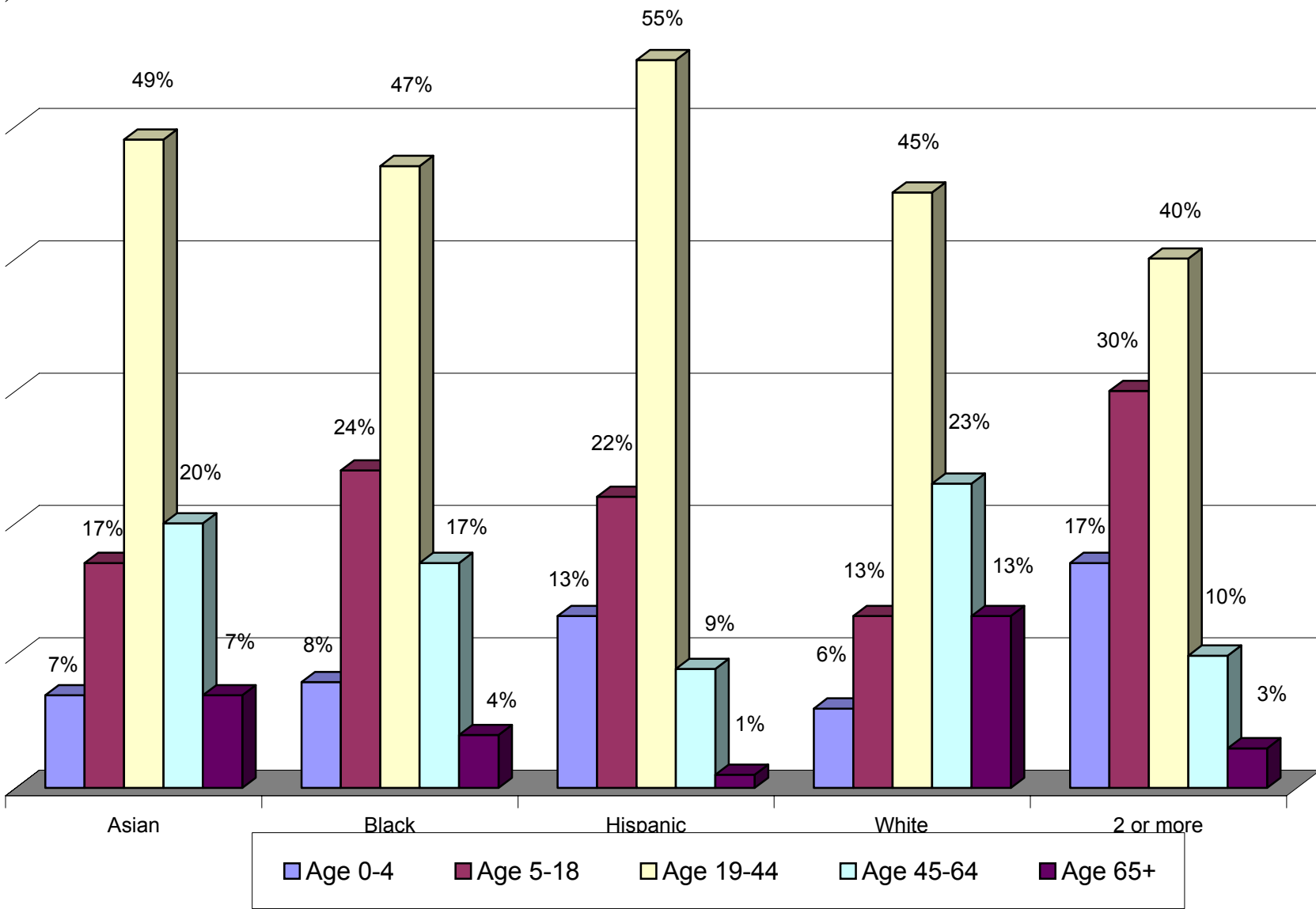


**Population by Race
1990 & 2000 Census**



Race and Ethnicity by Age
2000 Census Data

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RENTON Growth in Total Population & Non-English Speakers 1990 & 2000				
	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Total Population	41,688	50,052	8,364	20%
Population speaking a language other than English at home*	3,925	10,522	6,597	168%
% of population speaking a language other than English at home*	17%	23%		
% of Population that speaks English less than "very well"*	3.7%	12%		
*Data for population 5 years and over				

Source data: 1990 & 2000 Census

Poverty Status of Renton Individuals and Families 1989 and 1999 (from 1990 and 2000 Census)				
Subject	1989	1999	Change 1989-1999	
			Total	Percent
Individuals with Incomes Below Poverty Level	2898	4798	1900	66
Families with Incomes Below Poverty Level	596	853	257	43

Comparison of Individuals and Families Below Poverty Level 1989 and 1999 (from 1990 and 2000 Census)			
Jurisdiction	Year	Percent of Individuals and Families Below Poverty	
		Total Individuals	Total Families
King County	1999	8.4	5.3
	1989	8.0	5.0
Renton	1999	9.7	7.0
	1989	7.0	5.6
Auburn	1999	12.8	10.2
	1989	10.8	8.1
Federal Way	1999	9.3	6.9
	1989	5.9	5.9
Kent	1999	11.6	8.7
	1989	8.8	6.6
Tukwila	1999	12.7	8.8
	1989	9.3	7.4

Income Distribution for Households Comparison of Renton and Selected Jurisdictions 1999 (from 2000 Census)						
Income Category	Percent of Households in Income Category					
	King County	RENTON	Auburn	Federal Way	Kent	Tukwila
0-\$9,999	6.4	7.1	9.5	6.4	7.4	6.5
\$10,000-14,999	4.2	5.6	6.9	3.6	4.5	5.3
\$15,000-24,999	9.3	10.9	14.4	10.6	11.5	13.6
\$25,000-\$34,999	10.9	13.0	13.2	12.0	13.2	15.2
\$35,000-\$49,999	15.6	17.3	18.5	18.2	18.0	21.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.2	23.2	19.9	24.1	23.9	20.7
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.6	11.4	10.7	12.4	11.0	8.6
\$100,000-\$149,999	11.5	7.8	5.4	8.7	7.8	6.0
\$150,000 and over	7.2	3.7	1.5	4.0	2.7	2.5